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securing the apparel attachment member to the protective equipment by positioning the first side of the apparel attachment member in contact with the protective equipment, and positioning the apparel in contact with the plurality of hooks on the second side of the apparel attachment member, whereby the apparel is securely attached to the protective equipment.

Remarks

The Office Action of November 20, 2002 has been carefully reviewed and this paper is responsive thereto. Claims 1-14 are pending. In the Examiner's action, claim 4 was objected to as not being in proper dependent form. Claims 1-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman (US 3,257,666) in view of Thomas (US 5,694,651).

In response to the Examiner's objection of claim 4, claim 4 has been modified to be in proper dependent form.

In response to the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-14 as being obvious over Hoffman in view of Thomas, claim 6 has been clarified to recite that the "apparel is securely attached to the protective equipment." The Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-14 as being obvious over Hoffman in view of Thomas and submit the following remarks.

Hoffman and Thomas, alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest the attachment of a jersey to protective equipment in the manner recited in the pending claims. Specifically, Hoffman teaches sewing a patch onto a recoil pad where one side of the patch contains hooks. Col. 3, lines 15-23. Hoffman also teaches sewing a second patch containing loops to the inside of a garment. *Id.* Only after these patches are sewn in place can the garment be placed over and secured to the recoil pad. Hoffman does not teach or suggest adhesively attaching an apparel

attachment member to protective equipment where the hook side of the apparel attachment member removably secures to the loops that are formed (naturally or through brushing) on the inside of the apparel. Thomas does not obviate the deficiencies of Hoffman. Thomas teaches a "vest over-garment" that utilizes a plurality of different colors to be used to distinguish individual player positions. The vest over-garment hangs loosely over the protective equipment. Col. 5, lines 49-50. Rear panel fasteners 48, having inward facing fastener panels 50, are laid on top of outward facing front panel fasteners 52 to provide a garment fit around the wearer of the garment. Col. 5, lines 50-55. In other words, the garment itself includes hook and loop fasteners to form the garment, which is then placed loosely over the shoulder pads. Thomas, therefore, does not teach or suggest the deficiencies of Hoffman, namely, adhesively attaching an apparel attachment member to protective equipment, and the securement of the hook side of the apparel attachment member to the inside of the apparel to securely attach the apparel onto the protective equipment. Indeed, Thomas teaches away from the present invention in that it teaches loosely hanging the garment onto the protective equipment.

As a result, claims 1-14 are believed to be non-obvious over Hoffman in view of Thomas and therefore in allowable condition. All claims depending from these allowable claims are also believed to be in allowable condition for the same reasons and because of the additional limitations recited in those claims. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 2/4/2003

By: _____

Scott Burow

Scott A. Burow

Reg. No. 42,373

Tel: (312) 715-1000

APPENDIX

Version With Markings To Show Changes Made

In claim 4, on line 1, please change "claim 4" to --claim 3--.

6. (Amended) A method of securing apparel to protective equipment comprising the steps of:

providing an apparel attachment member defining a first side and a second side, the first side having an adhesive coating, and the second side having a plurality of hooks,

securing the apparel attachment member to the protective equipment by positioning the first side of the apparel attachment member in contact with the protective equipment, and

positioning the apparel in contact with the plurality of hooks on the second side of the apparel attachment member, whereby the apparel is securely attached to the protective equipment.



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In the Application of: Turner et al.

Serial No.: 10/033,818

Filing Date: December 20, 2001

For: Device and Method for Securing Apparel to Protective Equipment

- (X) Transmittal (1 page) in duplicate
- (X) Amendment and Response to Office Action mailed November 20, 2002 (4 pages)
- (X) Return Receipt Postcard

Attorney Docket No: 05127.00035